

Claims:

1. A method of controlling a vehicle, comprising the steps of:  
reducing a speed of the vehicle in response to a vehicle shutdown signal,  
monitoring at least one of a speed of the vehicle and a torque of an engine of the  
5 vehicle,  
determining whether the monitored at least one of the speed and torque is  
decreasing,  
if the monitored at least one of the speed and torque is not decreasing, enabling  
the engine of the vehicle to operate at a reduced power level, and  
10 stopping the vehicle when the monitored at least one of the speed and torque  
has reached a predetermined level.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the vehicle shutdown signal is generated in  
response to a predetermined condition.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the predetermined condition is at least one of  
15 use of the vehicle by an unauthorized operator, position of the vehicle in an  
unauthorized location, and failure to enter a predetermined code.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the vehicle shutdown signal is transmitted to  
the vehicle.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the reduction is initiated by at least one of  
20 actuating a brake of the vehicle, reducing the torque generated by the engine of the  
vehicle, interrupting a fuel supply to the engine of the vehicle, and controlling a  
transmission of the vehicle.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein after stopping the vehicle, the engine of the  
vehicle can be started in response to a second predetermined condition.
- 25 7. A control system for a vehicle, comprising a processor that reduces a speed of  
the vehicle in response to a vehicle shutdown signal, wherein the processor monitors at  
least one of a speed of the vehicle and a torque of an engine of the vehicle; the  
processor determines whether the monitored at least one of the speed and torque is  
decreasing; if the monitored at least one of the speed and torque is not decreasing, the  
30 processor enables the engine of the vehicle to operate at a reduced power level; and  
the processor causes the vehicle to stop the vehicle when the monitored at least one of  
the speed and torque has reached a predetermined level.
8. The control system of claim 7, wherein the vehicle shutdown signal is  
generated in response to a predetermined condition.

9. The control system of claim 8, wherein the predetermined condition is at least one of use of the vehicle by an unauthorized operator, position of the vehicle in an unauthorized location, and failure to enter a predetermined code.

5 10. The control system of claim 7, wherein the vehicle shutdown signal is transmitted to the vehicle.

11. The control system of claim 7, wherein the processor reduces the speed of the vehicle by causing at least one of actuation of a brake of the vehicle, reduction of the torque generated by the engine of the vehicle, interruption of a fuel supply to the engine of the vehicle, and control of a transmission of the vehicle.

10 12. The control system of claim 7, wherein after the vehicle has stopped, the processor enables the engine of the vehicle to be started in response to a second predetermined condition.

13. A computer-readable medium containing a computer program for controlling a vehicle, wherein the computer program performs the steps of:

15 reducing a speed of the vehicle in response to a vehicle shutdown signal,  
monitoring at least one of a speed of the vehicle and a torque of an engine of the vehicle,

determining whether the monitored at least one of the speed and torque is decreasing,

20 if the monitored at least one of the speed and torque is not decreasing, enabling the engine of the vehicle to operate at a reduced power level, and

stopping the vehicle when the monitored at least one of the speed and torque has reached a predetermined level.